

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01329 091201Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050007 091202Z /53

O R 091109Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 918
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1329

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, IS, LE, FR
SUBJ: UNIFIL STAYS IN TYRE AND REDEPLOYS FORCES AROUND SALIENT

1. UN SOURCE HAS PROVIDED US COPY OF ERSKINE
MAY 8 MESSAGE TO UNNY REGARDING UNIFIL REDEPLOYMENT
AROUND TYRE. AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY (JERUSALEM 1304), ERSKINE
HAS DECIDED TO KEEP UNIFIL PRESENCE IN TYRE BARRACKS
AND WILL REDEPLOY FRENCH AND SENEGLESE FORCES ON HIGH
GROUND AROUND TYRE SALIENT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF ERSKINE MESSAGE:
BEGIN QUOTE: I HAD EARLIER PLANNED TO RELOCATE FRANCH
HQ IN AREA OF QANA AS PART OF THE REDEPLOYMENT
EXERCISE. SUCH A PROXIMITY WOULD ENSURE BETTER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01329 091201Z

COMMAND AND CONTROL AND FACILITATE ADEQUATE REINFORCE-
MENT AND RESUPPLY CAPABILITY. TYRE BARRACKS WOULD
BE COMPLETELY ABANDONED, GIVING COMMANDER PRENCHBATT
THE FULL WILLPOWER TO EXECUTE HIS OPERATIONAL
FUNCTIONS WITHOUT FEARS OF RETRIBUTION OR VENGEANCE
ON HIS TROOPS IN TYRE AREA.

3. "HOWEVER, I FULLY SHARE IN YOUR STRONG POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN TYRE AND FULLY AGREE THAT THERE IS THE NEED FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN OUR AREA OF OPERATION AND THE REST OF LEBANON ALONG COASTAL ROAD. THIS, APART FROM ALL OTHER CONSIDERATION, IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF UNIFIL, I AGREE. THESE HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AS FACTORS IN THE REDEPLOYMENT EXERCISE.

4. "IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE FACTORS, TYRE BARRACKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE FRENCH BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AND ORGANIC SUPPORTING ELEMENTS. NORMAL RESUPPLY CONVOYS FROM/TO BEIRUT AND NAQOURA ARE BEING ESCORTED UNDER APPROPRIATE SECURITY. MOST OF THE FRENCH LIGHT ARMoured CAR COMPANY IS BEING RELOCATED TO QANA IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE DETAILED PATROLLING NECESSARY FOR THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS AND ALSO TO PREVENT ANY LOSS OF UNIFIL PRESENCE IN THE TOWN OF QANA AS THE SENEGALESE REDEPLOY. THIS WILL BE ON TRIAL BASIS. IF FUTURE ATTEMPTS ARE MADE ON FRENCHBATT AS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF 2 MAY, IT WOULD BE IMPERATIVE TO REVIEW THIS STAND.

5. "I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS SOME MIS-UNDERSTANDING ON OUR PLANNED REDEPLOYMENT. I HAD BEEN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01329 091201Z

CONSIDERING THIS PLAN WITH MY STAFF BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK ON 1 MAY. THE FEELING THE UNIFIL TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWING IS THEREFORE COMPLETELY MISLEADING AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE REDEPLOYMENT IS TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE GROUND AND TROOPS AVAILABLE TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY. WHILE THE REPOSITING OF OUR UNITS GIVES US A BETTER CAPABILITY TO PREVENT INFILTRATION IT WILL ACTUALLY INCREASE RISKS OF CONFRONTATION AS THE PLS WILL NOW RUN GREATER RISK OF BEING DETECTED, DENIED ENTRY, DISARMED IF NECESSARY BY FORCE OF ARMS. AS MENTIONED IN MY PREVIOUS CABLE. UNIFIL WAS FORCED TO DEPLOY INITIALLY IN AREAS NOT TOO SUITABLE AS THE DOMINATING TERRAIN FEATURES WERE OCCUPIED BY IDF.

6. "REST OF REDEPLOYMENT EXERCISE: THE TACTICAL REDEPLOYMENT OF THE SENEGALESE BATTALION AND SELECTED ELEMENTS OF THE FRENCH BATTALION ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE MORNING OF 9 MAY 1978. ESSENTIALLY, THE SENEGALESE BATTALION WILL BE REDEPLOYED INTO THE NORTH-WESTERN PORTION OF THE TYRE POCKET PERIMETER, RELIEVING THOSE FRENCH POSITIONS IN THAT AREA. CERTAIN OF THE

FRENCH COMBAT ELEMENTS WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY REDEPLOY
TO THE SENEGALESE POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST. MOST OF
THE FRENCH CHECKPOINTS WILL BE ABANDONED
IN FAVOR OF MOVING TO MORE TACTICALLY ORGANIZE
POSITION/CHECKPOINTS ALTHOUGH REFUGEES CHECKPOINTS OR
POINTS OF ENTRY WILL BE MAINTAINED ALONG THE SAME ROADS
AS BEFORE. REDEPLOYMENT DOES NOT INVOLVE GIVING UP
TERRITORY PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONTROL OF THE IDF AS WE
WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY ALL THE IDF POSITIONS HELD BY
THEN OM ON 30 APRIL AND HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY OCCUPIED
BY UNIFIL FORCES SINCE THE AFTERNOON OF THE IDF WITHDRAWAL."
END QUOTE
KRUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780196-0174
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780580/aaaacpsl.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 469c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2754325
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIFIL STAYS IN TYRE AND REDEPLOYS FORCES AROUND SALIENT
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, IS, LE, FR, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/469c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014